

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

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SUBJ: TRAVEL OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) DELEGATION TO JAPAN

REF: A. TOKYO 12470 B. STATE 205983; C. STATUS LNO 259

SUMMARY: DURING STAY IN TOKYO CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) DELEGATION MET WITH GOJ OFFICIALS, JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN, AND EMB REPS. EMPHASIS IN DISCUSSIONS WAS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES, BUT COM DEL ALSO INQUIRED RE GOJ AID PROSPECTS. COM DEL MADE CLEAR THAT TALKS WERE EXPLORATORY; JAPANESE SIDE'S RESPONSES WERE FRIENDLY BUT VAGUE. GOJ AND COM DEL WELL AWARE USG POSITION ON GOVT TO GOVT CONTACTS. COM DEL DEPARTED SEPT 29 AFTER EXPRESSING STAISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF TRIP. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) DELEGATION DEPARTED TOKYO FOR SEOUL SEPT 29 FOLLOWING WEEK OF MEETINGS WITH
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JAPANESE BUSINESS REPS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT

AGENCIES. DELEGATION ALSO MET AND BRIEFED BY EMBASSY'S ECON/COM MIN. ON PRIVATE SIDE DELEGATION MET WITH JAPAN-MICRONESIA ASSOCIATION, JAPAN-HAWAII ECONOMIC COUNCIL, LEISURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, ASIA KAIKAN, MITSUI REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, AND JAPAN SHIPPING LINES. ON GOVERNMENT SIDE, MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH MIN OF TRANSPORTATION (DEPT OF TOURISM), MITI (ECONOMIC COOPERATION DEPT), FONOFF (AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU--REF B), AND AGRICULTURE FORESTRY MINS FISHERIES AGENCY. COURTESY CALL ON DIET HOUSE SPEAKER SHIGESABURO MAEO ALSO ARRANGED, AND COM SENATOR NAKAYAMA MET JSP DIETMAN HIDEO DEN. ADDITIONALLY, DELEGATION HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT FONOFF KASUMI CLUB AND APPEARED ON NHK TELEVISION PROGRAM MORNING OF SATURDAY, SEPT 28.

2. EMBOFFS SAT IN ON ALL DELEGATION MEETINGS WITH GOJ MINISTRIES' OFFICIALS. IN EVERY CASE, IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR DEVELOPING PRIVATE ECONOMIC TIES WITH JAPAN, DELEGATION INQUIRED RE PROSPECTS FOR JAPANESE GOVERNMENTAL AID OVER LONGER TERM, ESPECIALLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FIELD. WITH EXCEPTION OF FUKADA'S RESPONSE REPORTED REF A, GOJ ANSWERS WERE FRIENDLY BUT VAGUE. (FUKADA'S OFFER OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WAS NOT FOLLOWED UP BY DELEGATION.) FISHERIES AGENCY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PRIVATE JOINT VENTURES AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. FISHERIES AGENCY ALSO SUGGESTED TTPI INQUIRE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS RE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING GOJ GRANT TO SEND MICRONESIAN TRAINEES TO JAPAN. MITI ASKED IN WHICH FIELDS MICRONESIANS DESIRED INVESTMENT (TO WHICH THEY RESPONDED TOURISM AND FISHERIES) AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFO ON TTPI STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS. MIN OF TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INCREASING FLOW OF JAPANESE TOURISTS TO MICRONESIA, IN RECEIVING MICRONESIAN TRAINEES IN HOTEL INDUSTRY, AND IN HELPING FIND PRIVATE COMPANIES INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN PROJECTS DESIRED BY MICRONESIANS. EMBOFFS BRIEFED FONOFF ALONG LINES REF A PRIOR TO COM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL, FONOFF HAD EXPLAINED OUR POSITION TO OTHER MINISTRIES, AND WE REMINDED COM SEVERAL TIMES OF CORRECT CHANNELS. THIS DID NOT, OBVIOUSLY, PREVENT COM DELEGATION FROM UNQUIRING RE GOJ AID PROSPECTS, BUT GOJ AND COM DELEGATION MEMBERS WELL AWARE OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

3. ACCORDING TO FONOFF REP WHO ASSISTED WITH PREPARA-

TIONS FOR COM DELEGATION'S VISIT (HAMANAKA), SPEAKER MAEO DURING MEETING WITH DELEGATION INDICATED JAPANESE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD WILLINGLY CONTRIBUTE TO MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT MICRONESIAN COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BE FORWARDED TO JAPAN-MICRONESIA ASSOCIATIONS. DIETMAN DEN, PATRON OF PONAPEAN DANNY LOPEZ, TOLD SENATOR NAKAYAMA THAT JAPAN SHOULD ASSIST MICRONESIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIMARILY THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION AND THAT DELEGATION'S VISIT TO TOKYO WOULD CREATE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR SUCH COOPERATION.

4. DURING MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, DELEGATION EXPLAINED INTEREST IN DEVELOPING PRIVATE ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND SOLICITED JAPANESE COOPERATION. DELEGATION DISTRIBUTED AT EACH MEETING A STATEMENT EXPLAINING PURPOSE OF MISSION (WHICH EMBASSY POUCHING TO ADDRESSEES). DELEGATION EXPLAINED THAT MEETINGS AT THIS TIME WERE EXPLORATORY, TO OCCASIONAL DISAPPOINTMENT OF JAPANESE WHO INTERESTED IN MORE SPECIFICS. TWO MOST INTERESTING REMARKS MADE IN PRESENCE OF EMBOFF WERE BY TAKEJIRO WATANABE, CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN HAWAII ECONOMIC COUNCIL (JAPAN) AND CHAIRMAN EMERITUS OF MITSUBISHI REAL ESTATE COMPANY. WATANABE SAID
A) LARGE JAPANESE COMPANIES ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MICRONESIA AS THEIR ATTENTION IS CENTERED ON RUSSIA, CHINA, AND BRAZIL, SO MEDIUM AND SMALL JAPANESE COMPANIES WILL HAVE TO PROMOTE PRIVATE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH MICRONESIA, AND B) JAPAN HAWAII ECONOMIC COUNCIL (JAPAN) WOULD DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF SENDING QTE SELL TO JAPAN MISSION UNQTE TO TTPI TO EXPLORE WITH MICRONESIANS POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING EXPORTS OF THEIR PRODUCTS TO JAPAN.

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5. PRESS CONFERENCE AND TV APPEARANCE WERE UNEVENTFUL. MINIMAL COVERAGE OF MISSION APPEARED IN PRESS--EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTICLES TO ADDRESSEES--BUT DELEGATION MEMBER WERE IMPRESSED AND PLEASED BY FACT THEY RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEPHONE INQUIRIES FOLLOWING TV APPEARANCE.

6. DELEGATION MEMBERS TOLD EMBOFF THEY WERE PLEASED WITH ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THEM AND SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF THEIR TRIP.
HODGSON

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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